



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 22, 2005

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## Students Dealt a 'Double Whammy' in New Higher Ed. Bill *GOP Bill Makes Largest Cut Ever in Federal Student Aid; Increases Cost of College*

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) today led efforts to block the House Education and the Workforce Committee from making the largest cut ever in student aid programs and increasing the cost of college for students and their families. Kind presented a proposal to shield students from billions in cuts by boosting Pell grants by \$500 per eligible student and saving student borrowers as much as \$6,000 over the course of their loans -without increasing the budget deficit. Another Kind amendment sought to preserve \$7.38 million in campus-based aid for the University of Wisconsin System. The student cost-saving proposal was defeated. The campus-based aid amendment initially passed but was later defeated after Committee Chairman John Boehner (R-OH) asked for a second vote and Republican members changed their positions.

“Congress had a chance to rewrite the higher education laws to expand college opportunities and to make going to college more affordable,” stated Rep. Kind. “Unfortunately, the rewrite that emerged from committee, with an increase in the cost of student loans on top of an unprecedented cut in student aid, is a double whammy for students and their parents.”

Kind also criticized the Committee’s move to cut \$7.56 million in campus-based aid for the UW System after it first approved his amendment to restore the current level of aid. The Committee reversed its decision after Chairman Boehner asked for a second vote and Republican members changed their positions. As a result, schools in Wisconsin’s Third Congressional District will lose \$2.38 million: UW Eau Claire-\$1.4 million; UW Stout-\$833,488; UW Platteville-\$518,370; UW River Falls-\$35,910; and UW La Crosse-\$13,936.

The Higher Education Act authorizes \$4.6 billion in student loans for FY 05 and \$73 billion for the next six years. The Republican budget passed earlier this year instructed the House Education Committee to find more than \$12 billion in “savings” in order to finance past and future tax cuts primarily benefiting the wealthiest one percent of Americans. The Republican members of the committee elected to remove \$11 billion from higher education, representing a 20 percent reduction in the federal student aid program.

“The typical student now graduates with \$17,500 in student loan debt,” said Rep. Kind. “At a time when millions of students and their families are struggling to pay for college, we should not be balancing the budget on their backs, while millionaires receive an average additional tax cut of \$120,000<sup>1</sup>.”

Kind also offered amendments to improve math and science education ([see accompanying press release](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy, Table: [Center Effect of the 2001-2004 Tax Cuts With Proportional Financing](#).